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## **Reports**

- [Item#1](#)  
ASEAN Paralysis Gives China Free Hand in South China Sea. YaleGlobal. Bertil Lintner. August 12, 2014.

The United States would prefer that ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, unite in demanding an end to China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. But two principles, consensus decision-making and non-interference in the internal affairs of member states, guide ASEAN. "In effect, ASEAN finds it impossible to take any unified stand in regional conflicts - or address bilateral issues between its various members," explains journalist Bertil Lintner. "This failure might leave China with a free hand to deal with South China Sea and its troublesome Southeast Asian neighbors." China hustles to improve trade, investment, diplomacy and military cooperation with neighboring nations, but expects partners to accept its leadership.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/asean-paralysis-allows-china-free-hand-south-china-sea> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#2

All Eyes on Africa. YaleGlobal. J. Peter Pham. August 14, 2014.

Disturbing news out of Africa, whether about extremist Boko Haram or the outbreak of Ebola, are aberrations for a young continent eager to grow and innovate. Like China and Europe, the United States is ready to court Africa as signaled by the first US-Africa Leaders Summit, explains J. Peter Pham, director of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council. "The summit itself underscores the broad consensus in the U.S. foreign-policy establishment that geopolitical and increasingly economic interests require engagement with Africa, yet the perception of the continent as a 'heart of darkness' mired in conflict, poverty, and disease stubbornly persists, even among the most well-meaning," he writes. U.S. President Barack Obama urged viewing Africa as "a fundamental part of our interconnected world." In assessing its many offerings, a confident Africa prepares to stride forward to a new horizon.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/all-eyes-africa> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#3

The Iranian Sea-Air-Missile Threat to Gulf Shipping. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesma. August 14, 2014.

The build-up of Iran's naval, air, and missile capability is steadily increasing Iran's ability to pose a wide range of threats to maritime traffic throughout and outside of the Gulf. One potential target of this threat is the steady increase of bulk cargo shipments into the Gulf, Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman, and Red Seas - shipments that are of growing strategic importance to the Gulf states. However, it is the danger Iran poses to Gulf energy exports that poses the most critical threat to the economies and stability of the other Gulf states, and is the key threat to both international maritime security and the global economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://csis.org/files/publication/140815\\_Iran\\_Air\\_Sea\\_Missile\\_Maritime\\_Threat.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/140815_Iran_Air_Sea_Missile_Maritime_Threat.pdf) [PDF format, 143 pages, 2.86 MB].

#### Item#4

Iraq: Politics, Governance, and Human Rights. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kenneth Katzman. August 12, 2014.

Since the 2011 U.S. military withdrawal from Iraq, sectarian and ethnic divisions have widened, fueling a major challenge to Iraq's stability and to Iraq's non-Muslim minority communities. Iraq's Sunni Arabs have sided with radical Sunni Islamist insurgents as a means to end Shiite political domination and perceived discrimination by the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. Iraq's Kurds have been separately embroiled in political disputes with the Baghdad government over territorial, political, and economic issues, particularly their intent to separately export large volumes of oil produced in the Kurdish region. The political rifts--which were contained by the U.S. military presence but have been escalating since late 2011--erupted into a sustained uprising beginning in December 2013 led by the radical extremist group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), now renamed the Islamic State. The group and its allies took control of several cities in Anbar Province in early 2014 and in a lightning offensive captured Mosul and several other mostly Sunni cities in June 2014, aided by a partial collapse of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The ISF collapse enabled the Kurds to seize control of the long-coveted city of Kirkuk.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS21968.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages, 496.86 KB].

#### Item#5

Stark Racial Divisions in Reactions to Ferguson Police Shooting. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 18, 2014.

Blacks and whites have sharply different reactions to the police shooting of an unarmed teen in Ferguson, Mo., and the protests and violence that followed. Blacks are about twice as likely as whites to say that the shooting of Michael Brown "raises important issues about race that need to be discussed." Wide racial differences also are evident in opinions about whether local police went too far in the aftermath of Brown's death, and in confidence in the investigations into the shooting.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/08/8-18-14-Ferguson-Release.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages, 456.72 KB].

#### Item#6

Immigration Policies and Issues on Health-Related Grounds for Exclusion. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ruth Ellen Wasem. August 13, 2014.

News of humans infected with Ebola in West Africa, avian influenza in China, polio in the Middle East, and dengue fever in the Caribbean are examples of reports that heighten concerns about the health screenings of people arriving in the United States. Under current law, foreign nationals who wish to come to the United States generally must obtain a visa and submit to an inspection to be admitted. One of the reasons why a foreign national might be deemed inadmissible is on health-related grounds. The diseases that trigger inadmissibility in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) are those communicable diseases of public health significance as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/R40570.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages, 309.23 KB].

#### Item#7

Party Leaders in the House: Election, Duties, and Responsibilities. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Valeries Heitshusen. August 14, 2014.

Each major party in the House has a leadership hierarchy. The report summarizes the election, duties, and responsibilities of the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders, and the whips and whip system.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS20881.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages, 187.48 KB].

#### Item#8

After the Boom-Commodity Prices and Economic Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Internatioanal Monetary Fund. Bertrund Gruss. August 2014.

After skyrocketing over the past decade, commodity prices have remained stable or eased somewhat since mid-2011, and most projections suggest they are not likely to resume the upward trend observed in the last decade. The paper analyzes what this turn in the commodity price cycle may imply for output growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. The analysis suggests that growth in the years ahead for the average commodity exporter in the region could be significantly lower than during the commodity boom, even if commodity prices were to remain stable at their current still-high levels. Slower-than-expected growth in China represents a key downside risk.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2014/wp14154.pdf> [PDF format, 43 pages, 1.09 MB].

#### Item#9

Safe at Home? Letting Ebola-Stricken Americans Return. Congressional Research Service Insights, Library of Congress. Sarah A. Lister. August 5, 2014.

In early August 2014 two American healthcare workers who contracted Ebola virus infections while working to stem an outbreak in West Africa returned to the United States to continue receiving medical care here. Ebola infection is highly deadly and there is no approved specific treatment. Although the patients were to be transported and cared for under strict isolation protocols, some have voiced concern about Ebola infection being brought to the United States for the first time intentionally.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/IN10126.pdf> [PDF format, 1 page, 194.56 KB].

#### Item#10

6 Facts about South Korea's Growing Christian Population. Pew Research Center. Phillip Connor. August 12, 2014.

Pope Francis is in South Korea for Asian Youth Day, making his third international trip as pontiff. He is visiting a country that has experienced considerable religious change in recent decades. Connor presents six facts about Christianity in South Korea.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/08/12/6-facts-about-christianity-in-south-korea/> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#11

Colorado's Rollout of Legal Marijuana Is Succeeding. Brookings Institution. John Hudak. July 31, 2014.

Hudak reports that the state of Colorado has largely succeeded in rolling out a legal marijuana system, and its early implementation efforts have been impressive. The report details what has been successful, how Colorado has achieved an effective rollout, and what challenges remain.

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<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/07/colorado%20marijuana%20legalization%20succeeding/cepmmjcov2.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages, 293 KB].

#### Item#12

AI, Robotics, and the Future of Jobs. Pew Research Internet Project. Aaron Smith and Janna Anderson. August 6, 2014.

The vast majority of respondents to the 2014 Future of the Internet canvassing anticipate that robotics and artificial intelligence will permeate wide segments of daily life by 2025, with huge implications for a range of industries such as health care, transport and logistics, customer service, and home maintenance. But even as they are largely consistent in their predictions for the evolution of technology itself, they are deeply divided on how advances in AI and robotics will impact the economic and employment picture over the next decade.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/08/Future-of-AI-Robotics-and-Jobs.pdf> [PDF format, 67 pages, 940.96 KB].